

## WEEK 3 HOLY SPIRIT

### ◆ Children of God!

**Romans 8:16; “The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children”**

**II Corinthians : Throughout this letter, Paul is dealing with the issue of teachers who have come after him in Corinth, and their ministry.**

### **II Corinthians 2:17-3-17**

#### **Explanation of the text:**

**2:17-3:1;** Characteristics of teachers who came after Paul to Corinth:

- 1) They were involved in ministry for some temporary earthly gain (money)
- 2) They were not ministering with sincerity.
- 3) Their motivation was to please men, and to be commended by them
- 4) They garnered letters of recommendation and took them to people they were just meeting
- 5) They boasted about work they did not do, but was done by others (II Cor. 10:12-18)
- 6) They commended themselves (II Corinthians 10:18)
- 7) They are false apostles, masquerading as apostles of Christ (II Corinthians 11:12-15)

**3:2-3;** Paul and Timothy’s letter

- 1) Their letter is the very people they impacted by their work
- 2) Their letter is also on their own heart and it will be obvious to everyone
- 3) Their letter is from Christ, written by the Spirit. Their letter is NOT from men, and they don’t need a letter from men! (verse 1)

**3:4-13;** How can Paul and Timothy be so confident, and not use letters of recommendation?

- 1) The Spirit of God has made them competent!
- 2) Their competence comes from God and their ministry is a GLORIOUS ministry  
“Therefore, since we have such a hope, we are very bold.” (3:12)
- 3) They do not hide the glory of their ministry (“And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord’s glory...” 3:18) “A city on a hill cannot be hidden”

Applications:

1) You are competent!

This is the reason why you do not need those letters of recommendation, ***your commendation/competency comes from the Lord (10:18)***

Your work, and your ministry is glorious, in the sphere God has assigned to you

Use your gifts/competency in the sphere God has assigned to you!

Look at how much the Holy Spirit is an encourager!!!

satan is our accuser, he would put it this way, “You don’t pray enough. You don’t read your Bible enough. How are you any good to the church? You’re “talents” aren’t that

important, if you weren't in the church, no one would care. You don't matter. You're lazy. And what kind of a Christian are you anyway? I saw what you said last night!

But the Holy Spirit is our encourager! You are competent! He has given you the gift of competency, and then has encouraged you by telling you so!

Do you see the difference? The Holy Spirit encourages us to do certain things, even exhorts or commands us to. But it is all with an encouraging tone, to build you up, not tear you down.

My goal for us is that we would see how BIG and awesome is our Triune God, and to see His gifts to us, so that we would be encouraged and WANT to serve Him wholeheartedly all the days of our lives.

◆ **Competency;** He gives us purpose in life!

•What the Holy Spirit does, His ministry is GLORIOUS!!!

You are Competent! ***You have a manifestation of the Spirit for the good of the body.*** (I Corinthians 12:7) `Jesus' body is not lame and powerless and incompetent. His body is competent. You are competent. You are talented! Your competency is in a ministry way more glorious than anything that fades away. You may know dozens of people more talented than you at your work. Maybe they are better administrators, better leaders, better writers. Maybe they are better than you at computers, math, science, public speaking (**...but in person he is unimpressive and his speaking amounts to nothing."** II Corinthians 10:10) learning, reading. Maybe they are better with their hands than you ... but you are competent and talented at something that far outweighs any passing, temporary work. Your work has eternal significance.

- 1) You know what every single person on this planet needs for happiness, peace, joy, fulfillment, and life. And you know exactly how to tell them to get it.
- 2) You have the answers to life's deepest questions. Philosophers for ages have tried in their wisdom to understand what God has revealed and given to you. (**discuss how I suddenly understood those issues after salvation**). You can discern between Truth and lies!
- 3) You have the Words of God, and you can understand them [because of the Spirit]! (I Corinthians 2:14-15)

Review last week's gift of Truth. The Bible is a gift to us, as is the Holy Spirit who teaches us truth. Discuss 1) How the Bible is the sword of the Spirit, the only offensive weapon, and how we need to take God's word with us[my example] 2) After Jim called me, and I said I would do the Holy Spirit, the first thing I did was to think, "I need some good books on the Holy Spirit"!!! We have a book on the Holy Spirit (the Bible), and the one who wrote it as our eternal companion and teacher...what was I thinking???

- 4) You have, as your companion, the Spirit of the most powerful man ever. He can do ANYTHING! [John 14:13-14] “Everything is possible for Him who believes”

Side comment:.....

We as Christians should not seek to climb the church corporate ladder.

(Discuss my conversation with my mom regarding ministries that publish letters of recommendation)

Talk, though, about how for me to become a Gideon, they asked for a letter of recommendation from CPC—and that is reasonable. It is when we come, loaded with letters of recommendation, seeking to be honored by people, and make friends, and climb the ladder that we have become like those Paul is writing about

## **II Corinthians 3:14-18**

### **Explanation of the text**

**3:14-17a; The state of those who have not turned to the Lord** (“Now the Lord is the Spirit”!!!)

- 1) There is a veil that covers their hearts. They are blinded to the gospel of the glory of Christ. (4:4)
- 2) This veil represents a lack of freedom

3:17: The Gift of the Spirit is Freedom!!!!

◆ **Freedom! (II Corinthians 3:17)**

***Freedom TO***

***Freedom understand the Scriptures and to see its glory***

***“Whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away” (Lord = Spirit; vs.17-18; Lord = Christ; vs 14).***

If you cannot see the glory of the OT (Moses), or understand the Bible,

(I Corinthians 2:14), it’s probably because a veil is covering your heart. Only in Christ is this veil taken away. Church attendance, service, being “good”, will never remove that veil.

John 8:36; “If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”

\*We have freedom to LOVE

\*We have been given the freedom and the ability to do what is right, and to submit to God's law

**Romans 8:7-9:** "The sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so... You however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you

[II Cor. 3:17; "Now **the Lord is the Spirit**, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.]

**With the Spirit of the Lord, there is freedom:**

● **National Freedom:**

\*\*Discuss Freedom for a nation where the Spirit of the Lord is (get a newspaper)  
WHEN THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS IN A NATION, THERE IS FREEDOM IN THAT NATION  
WHEN THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS IN A MAN/OR WOMAN, THERE IS FREEDOM, INDEED FOR HIM/HER

(Deuteronomy 28)

What the world called "THE GREAT EXPERIMENT" has become a raging success, not just because of the wisdom of our founders, but because the Spirit of the Lord. God has granted us protection and freedom. This nation was built on the foundation of Christian faith, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom"

**Freedom FROM:**

● **From Sin's power over us**, and the guilt of our past sins. We can be free from slavery to sin.

(Romans 6:20-22)

"When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the control of righteousness. What benefit did you reap at that time from the things you are now ashamed of? Those things result in death! But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves to God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life."

- Ecclesiastes 8:8; "...wickedness will not release those who practice it."
- Why is it that many people think that living a life sold out to Jesus is bondage? "It is for Freedom that Christ has set us free" (Galatians 5:1)

● **From Fear**

• **Fear of death** ("and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death." Heb 2:15)

What a freedom to no longer fear death! ...because we have died already! "Whew! I'm glad I got that out of the way!" **Analogy:** In speech class, until you get up to speak, you have a hard time concentrating on others b/c you are thinking about yourself and your speech. But after you are done, you are free to no longer have to dwell on yourself, and can listen to others!

• **Fear of judgment and punishment**

(I John 4:17-18; "...we will have confidence on the day of judgment, because in this world we are like him. There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love")

\*\*We have a fear of the Lord (as this is the beginning of wisdom), and we do not want to be caught ashamed before Him at His coming, but we do not fear that we will go to hell, because the Spirit has testified with our spirit that we are God's children and has freed us from fear!!

### ③ From trying to earn salvation

Galatians 4:6-9---GALATIANS 5:1-2; "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free..."

#### ④ Freedom in our daily life

- Freedom from anger ("I get soooo angry when that happens...I just can't help it!)  
Freedom from having to get angry when you don't get what you want  
--I don't have to get mad because where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. I am free from having to get upset at not getting what I want, and I know that God works out all things for good for those who love Him...and He has a plan and a purpose for everything. It is incredibly freeing to know that.
- Freedom from anxiety and worry (How do I stop worrying so much? I feel so anxious...)
- Freedom in your daily conversation (ex. spiritual conversations, and filthy language)
- Freedom from idols and distractions

### ✠ We are becoming more like the Lord! (II Corinthians 3:18)

This transformation comes FROM the Lord. We are being transformed into the likeness of the Spirit

#### Galatians 5:22-23

#### Fruit of the Spirit

"But the Fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and *self-control*..."

#### Self-control

Proverbs 25:28

Titus 1:8; 2:2,5,6,12

I Thessalonians 5:6

I Timothy 3:2

I Peter 1:13; 4:7; 5:8

(2 Peter 1:6)

## **Discuss Prayer to the Holy Spirit**

- Prayer to the Holy Spirit is very appropriate, especially in areas that are specific to His ministry, but probably shouldn't be the overall emphasis of our prayer life.
- The Holy Spirit is fully God and powerful to answer prayer. Christians in the NT communicated with Him.
- **Acts 13:2**; In response to prayer, the Holy Spirit DIRECTLY answers the Christians at Antioch to the work for which HE has called them.
- **Acts 15:28**; The will of the Holy Spirit was known by the apostles and elders in Jerusalem. This also implies direct communication with Him.
- **Acts 20:23**; The Holy Spirit communicates DIRECTLY to Paul
- OT: Ezekiel 37; ruah = spirit or breath
- NT: Praying in the Spirit (Ephesians 6:18, Jude 20)
- "To say that we cannot pray to the Holy Spirit is really saying that we cannot talk to Him or relate to Him personally, which hardly seems right. He also relates to us in a personal way..." --Grudem

### **NICENE CREED**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.**

**With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.**

**He has spoken through the Prophets.**

### **Hymns to the Holy Spirit**

"Doxology": "Praise Father, Son, and **Holy Ghost**. Amen"

"Glorify Thy Name": "Spirit we love You, we worship and adore You, Glorify thy  
Name in all

the earth..."

"Spirit of the Living God": "Spirit of the Living God, fall fresh on me. Spirit of the  
Living God, fall

fresh on me. Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me. Spirit of the Living God, fall  
fresh on me."

(pp.382-396 The Celebration Hymnal)

### **THE HOLY SPIRIT WRITTEN ON OUR HEARTS**

**"YOU SHOW THAT YOU ARE A LETTER FROM CHRIST, THE RESULT OF OUR  
MINISTRY, WRITTEN NOT WITH INK BUT WITH THE SPIRIT OF THE  
LIVING GOD, NOT ON TABLETS OF STONE, BUT ON TABLETS OF HUMAN  
HEARTS."**